

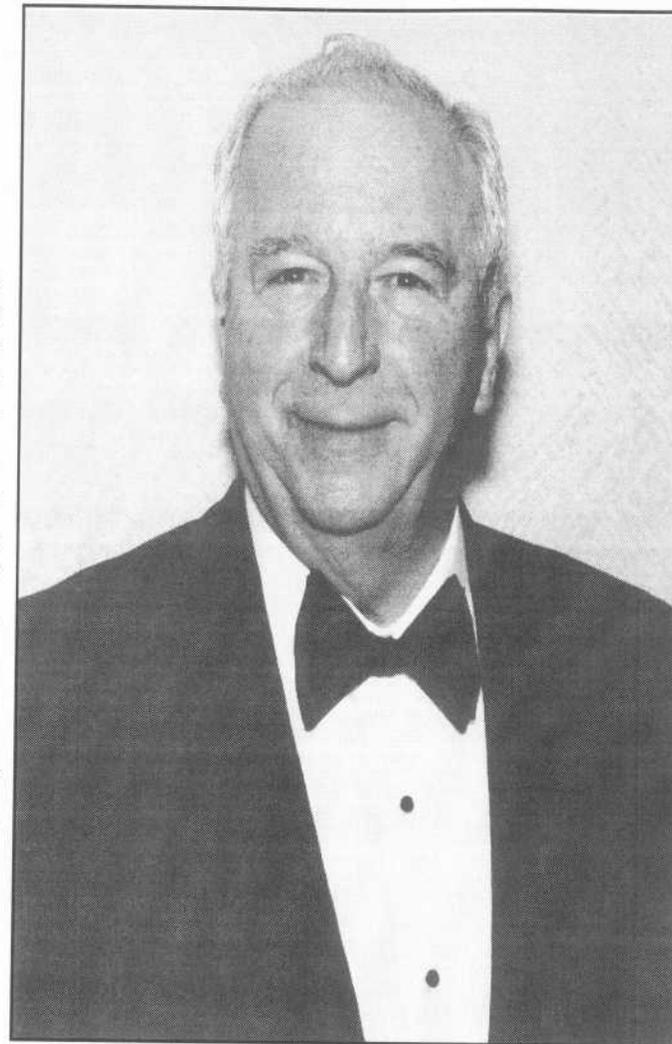
OSA's LABOR HERO OF 2003 BATTALION CHIEF TONY MORELLI

This past July, a quiet hero of New York City labor passed from the scene. At the time of his death, at age 79, Tony Morelli was the senior member of the Municipal Labor Committee's Health Technical Subcommittee. This committee is responsible for guiding municipal labor's negotiations on citywide health benefit agreements. The details of those agreements can be complex, yet are of great importance to all of us.

In a letter to OSA members a few years ago, our representative to that committee wrote, *"At one point Theresa from the Firefighters' Union asked Tony from the Fire Officers' Union why retirees over 65 years of age must join Medicare. Tony (who started work as a firefighter in 1947) began his answer with, 'In 1966, when we were establishing a uniform health coverage for all City employees, Medicare was also getting started and it was agreed that...' In depth knowledge of such municipal history is so rare it is precious."*

Tony's knowledge came from a lifetime of service to his City and his Union. Brother Morelli rose through the FDNY ranks to retire as a Battalion Chief. He was elected to the Uniformed Fire Officers Association (UFOA) Executive Board and was a trustee of the FDNY's pension and life insurance funds. After his retirement in 1975, he was the Administrator of the UFOA's welfare and annuity funds for 21 years.

The contributions of unionists like Tony Morelli to the welfare of all City employees, their families and the City itself are not always noted. As this year's OSA Labor Hero, we honor his memory and the help that he gave to improving the lives of all New York City workers.



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